Outlined Reading Guide to the Four Gospel Accounts

A Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel According to John:

Similarities and Distinctions

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Dr. Morris Murray, Jr.

The Synoptic Gospels
(Matthew-Mark-Luke)
and
The Gospel According to John

With an Appendix of Specific References
to the Kingly Rule of God
in Each Gospel

“If ye continue in *My Word*,
then are ye My disciples indeed;
and ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall set you free.”
(John 8:31-32)

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A Harmony of the Gospels
(*Matthew – Mark – Luke – John*)

Introduction and Major Divisions

For many years attention has been called to the *similarities* of the first three gospels and their *distinctions* from the fourth gospel. It is the purpose of this Reading Guide to avoid matters of interpretation and set forth the scripture, as it is written, in an outlined format so that both the *similarities* and *distinctions* may be clearly seen.

The Synoptic Gospels are arranged in a 6-fold topic perspective:

I PREPARATION FOR JESUS
II PRESENTATION OF JESUS
III PROFILES ON JESUS
IV PRONOUNCEMENTS BY JESUS
V PASSIONS OF JESUS
VI POWER OF JESUS

The Gospel According to John is arranged in a 4-fold topic perspective:

I PRESENTATION OF JESUS
II PRONOUNCEMENTS BY JESUS
III PASSIONS OF JESUS
IV POWER OF JESUS

In the pages which follow, the reader should be careful to note the consistency of the subtopic arrangements under the synoptic gospel format, and to some extent, the consistency and parallels even with the fourth gospel. In other words, there are more ways by which all four gospel accounts harmonize or agree than disagreee.

One Page Overview with Scripture

After this one page overview, with noted chapters and verses, the following pages will break down these major parallel divisions into additional particulars to further show the similarities and differences in the four gospel accounts. Please note that the breakdown of the 4 major parallel divisions in John vary somewhat from Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

This organizational perspective is intended to help one see and read the gospels in a helpful, structural manner.

I PREPARATION for Jesus
[Mt. 1:1-4:11 -- Mk. 1:1-3 -- Lk. 1:5-4:13]

II PRESENTATION of Jesus
[Mt. 4:12-14:36 -- Mk. 1:14-6:56 -- Lk. 4:14- 9:17 -- Jn. 1:1-51]

III PROFILES on Jesus
[Mt. 15:1-23:39 -- Mk. 7:1-12:44 -- Lk. 9:18-21:4]

IV PRONOUNCEMENTS by Jesus
[Mt. 24:1-25:46 -- Mk. 13:1-37 -- Lk. 21:5-38 -- Jn. 2:1-17:26]

V PASSIONS of Jesus
[Mt. 26:1-27:66 -- Mk. 14:1-15:47 -- Lk. 22:1-23:56 -- Jn. 18:1-19:42]

VI POWER of Jesus
[Mt. 28:1-20 -- Mk. 16:1-20 -- Lk. 24:1-52 -- Jn. 20:1-29; 21:1-23]

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- B. Birth of Jesus (1:18-25)
- C. Wise Men and Jesus (2:1-12)
- D. Egypt and Jesus (2:13-23)
- E. Forerunner of Jesus (3:1-12)
- F. Baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)
- G. Temptations of Jesus (4:1-11)

II PRESENTATION of Jesus (4:12-14:36)
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- B. Calling from Jesus (4:18-22)
- C. Credentials of Jesus (4:23-14:36)

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- B. Parable of Fig Tree by Jesus (24:32-35)
- C. Parousia of Jesus (24:36-51)
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- E. Partitioning/Separating by Jesus (25:31-46)

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- B. Precious Ointment for Jesus (26:6-13)
- C. Price Agreement Concerning Betrayal of Jesus (26:14-16)
- D. Passover & Lord's Supper with Jesus (26:17-35)
- E. Praying of Jesus (26:36-46)
- F. Partners against Jesus (26:47-75)
- G. Pain of and Prophecy Concerning the Betrayer of Jesus (27:1-10)
- H. Pilate and Jesus (27:11-26)
- I. Praetorium and Mocking of Jesus (27:27-32)
- J. Place of a Skull and Crucifixion of Jesus (27:33-56)
- K. Pallbearer and Burial of Jesus (27:57-66)

VI POWER of Jesus (28:1-20)
- A. Resurrection of Jesus (28:1-15)
- B. Commission from Jesus (28:16-20)

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- B. Baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)
- C. Temptations of Jesus (1:12-13)

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- B. Precious Ointment for Jesus (14:3-9)
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- D. Egypt and Jesus (2:13-23)
- E. Forerunner of Jesus (3:1-12)
- F. Baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)
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  4. Healing of Centurion's Servant at Capernaum (8:5-13)
  5. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law and Others (8:14-17)
  6. Discipleship (8:18-22)
  7. Calming the Sea (8:23-27)
  8. Healing of Demoniac (8:28-34)
  9. Healing of Paralytic (9:1-8)
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3. Cursing of Fig Tree by Jesus (21:18-22)
4. Challenging of Jesus (21:23-27)
5. Comparisons by Jesus (21:28-22:14)
6. Caesar and Jesus (22:15-22)
7. Confutation of Sadducees & Pharisees by Jesus (22:23-46)
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- B. Baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)
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B. Parable of Fig Tree by Jesus (21:29-33)
C. Parousia of Jesus (21:34-36)
D. Parenthesis about Jesus (21:37-38)

V PASSIONS of Jesus (22:1-23:56)

A. Plot to Kill Jesus (22:1-3)
B. Price Agreement Concerning Betrayal of Jesus (22:4-6)
C. Passover and Lord's Supper with Jesus (22:7-38)
D. Praying of Jesus (22:39-46)
E. Partners against Jesus (22:47-71)
F. Pilate and Herod and Jesus (23:1-25)
G. Provision for and Proclamation by Jesus (23:26-32)
H. Place of a Skull and Crucifixion of Jesus (23:33-49)
I. Pallbearer and Burial of Jesus (23:50-56)

VI POWER of Jesus (24:1-52)

A. Resurrection of Jesus (24:1-12)
B. Appearances of Jesus (24:13-49)
C. Ascension of Jesus (24:50-51)
D. Obedience to Jesus (24:53)

I PRESENTATION of Jesus (1:1-51)

A. Sovereignty of Jesus (1:1-2)
B. Significance of Jesus (1:3-5)
   1. Concerning Creation (1:3)
   2. Concerning Life (1:4-5)
C. Superiority of Jesus (1:6-34)
   1. To John the Baptist (1:6-16, 19-34)
   2. To Moses (1:17-18)
D. Summons/Invitation from Jesus (1:35-51)

II PRONOUNCEMENTS by Jesus (2:1-17:26)

A. Stated Publicly (2:1-12:50)
   1. Sign #1 [*Water into Wine*] (2:1-11)
      {Interlude (2:12)}
   2. Significance of Temples (2:13-22)
      {Interlude (2:23-25)}
   3. Subject: New Birth (3:1-36)
   4. Subject: Worship (4:1-42)
      {Interlude (4:43-45)}
   5. Sign #2 [*Healing of Nobleman's Son*] (4:46-54)
   6. Sign #3 [*Healing of Lame Man*] (5:1-18)
   7. Subject: Divinity of Jesus (5:19-47)
   8. Sign #4 [*Feeding of 5,000*] (6:1-15)
   9. Sign #5 [*Walking on Water*] (6:16-21)
   10. Subject: Spiritual Feeding (6:22-71)
      Sayings (#1): "I am the Bread of Life" (6:35,41,48)
   11. Subject: Spiritual Thirst (7:1-52)
      {Interlude (7:53-8:11)
   12. Subject: Spiritual Light (8:12-59)
      Sayings (#2): "I am the Light of the World" (8:12)
   13. Sign #6 [*Opening Blind Eyes*] (9:1-42)
   14. Subject: Spiritual Care and Guidance (10:1-42)
      Sayings (#3): "I am the Door" (10:7-9)
      Sayings (#4): "I am the Good Shepherd" (10:11,14)
   15. Sign #7 [*Raising the Dead*] (11:1-57)
      Sayings (#5): "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (11:25)
   16. Support and Sorrow (12:1-50)
      a. Perfume and Protest (12:1-8)
      b. Plot Against Lazarus (12:9-11)
      c. Popularity of Jesus (12:12-26)

d. Passion of Jesus Foretold (12:27-36a)
{Interlude (12:36b-43)}
e. Passionate Outcry (12:44-50)

B. Stated Privately (13:1-17:26)
1. Supper (13:1-4)
2. Service/Servitude (13:5-20)
3. Signification/Prediction of Betrayal (13:21-30)
4. Summons/Command to Love (13:31-35)
5. Signification/Prediction of Denials (13:36-38)
6. Solace/Comfort for Disciples (14:1-31)
Sayings (#6): "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life" (14:6)
7. Solemn Declarations (15:1-16:33)
Sayings (#7): "I am the True Vine" (15:1)
8. Supplication/Prayer (17:1-26)

III PASSIONS of Jesus (18:1-19:42)

A. Plot to Kill Jesus (18:1-11)
B. Priests' Questioning of Jesus (18:12-24)
C. Peter's Denials of Jesus (18:25-27)
D. Pilate's Deliberations about Jesus (18:28-19:15)
E. Place of a Skull and Crucifixion of Jesus (19:16-37)
F. Pallbearer and Burial of Jesus (19:38-42)

IV POWER of Jesus (20:1-29; 21:1-23)

A. Resurrection of Jesus (20:1-10)
B. Appearances of Jesus (20:11-29; 21:1-23)
1. To Mary (20:11-18)
2. To Disciples without Thomas (20:19-25)
3. To Disciples with Thomas (20:26-29)
4. To Disciples at Sea of Tiberias/Galilee (21:1-23)

PURPOSE (20:30-31)

POSTSCRIPT (21:24-25)

APPENDIX

References to the Kingdom in the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel According to John

MATTHEW: 53 references

"the kingdom" - 4:23; 6:10, 13; 8:12; 9:35; 13:19, 38; 24:14; 25:34
"the kingdom of heaven" - 3:2; 4:17; 5:3, 10, 19[twice], 20; 7:21; 8:11; 10:7; 11:11, 12; 13:11, 19, 24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52; 16:19; 18:1, 3, 4, 23; 19:12, 14, 23; 20:1; 22:2; 23:13; 25:1
"the kingdom of God" - 6:33; 12:28; 19:24; 21:31, 43
"Thy kingdom" - 6:10; 20:21
"His kingdom" - 13:41; 16:28
"the kingdom of their Father" - 13:43
"My Father's kingdom" - 26:29

MARK: 16 references

"the kingdom of God" - 1:14, 15; 4:11, 26, 30; 9:1, 47; 10:14, 15, 23, 24, 25; 12:34; 14:25; 15:43
"the kingdom of our father David" - 11:10

LUKE: 40 references

"the kingdom" - 12:32; 19:15
"a kingdom" - 22:29
"the kingdom of God" - 4:43; 6:20; 7:28; 8:1, 10; 9:2, 11, 27, 60, 62; 10:9, 11; 11:20; 12:31; 13:18, 20, 28, 29; 14:15; 16:16; 17:20 [twice], 21; 18:16, 17, 24, 25, 29; 19:11; 21:31; 22:16, 18; 23:51
"Thy kingdom" - 11:2; 23:42
"His kingdom" - 1:33
"My kingdom" - 22:30

JOHN: 5 references

"the kingdom of God" - 3:3, 5
"My kingdom" - 18:36 [three]